

foundation a promise of fair and equal treatment by our government and that promise extends into the halls of Congress where fair and equal treatment demands that the Northern Marianas be represented by a Delegate.

The bill I introduce today mirrors the legislation which granted Guam and the United States Virgin Islands representation in 1972 and the legislation which granted American Samoa representation in 1980. The Northern Marianas will join the ranks of Delegates representing these islands, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, and the Northern Marianas will add its voice to those who represent American citizens who do not reside in the fifty states, but who reside in a diverse group of American communities on American soil.

As a Delegate, I know the difficulties attached to the kind of office I hold. There are real limitations to what I can do here. But I have the freedom to speak, to argue, to introduce legislation, to participate in debate, to make friends for the people who sent me here. The fate of my island rises and falls with my ability to represent my constituents. How unfair, how unkind, how un-American it is to keep any American from having the same privilege.

I hope that the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate will act on this legislation and I urge my colleagues to co-sponsor the Northern Marianas Delegate Act.

For the record, I am attaching a statement from CNMI Resident Representative Juan Babauta.

THE NORTHERN MARIANAS DELEGATE ACT,
AUGUST 6, 1998

Statement of the Honorable Juan N. Babauta, Resident Representative to the United States, from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The people of the Northern Marianas voted overwhelmingly in 1975 to join the United States of America. After three centuries of colonial rule we longed to be citizens of a democratic republic, free to participate in our own governance.

Twenty-three years later, we still wait, governed from afar, the only people within the United States without a voice in Congress.

In negotiating our entry into the American political system we were advised that our small population (about 14,000 in the early 1970s) did not warrant representation in Congress. We accepted that explanation knowing that Congress had recently provided representation in the House of Representatives for Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia and confident that once we, too, became United States citizens we would be accorded representation in our national government.

When, in 1978, Congress provided representation for the US nationals of American Samoa, a population of approximately 27,000, we in the Northern Marianas were further encouraged to believe that as a growing population of US citizens, we, too, would soon have a voice in shaping the laws which now governed us.

Our hopes rose again in 1986 when the Commission on Federal Laws appointed by President Ronald Reagan recommended to Congress that the people of the Northern Marianas be provided a Delegate in the US House of Representatives. The Reagan Commission reasoned that:

Every other area within the American political system with a permanent population is represented in Congress;

Northern Marianas representation in Congress is in keeping with American traditions

of participatory democracy and would dispel any lingering taint of American colonialism over the islands; and

A Northern Marianas Delegate would effectively represent the needs and interests of the islands, relieving other Members of this responsibility.

Although legislation was introduced supporting the Reagan Commission recommendation, the House took no action on it.

When, in 1989, I first ran for the office of Resident Representative to the United States from the Northern Mariana Islands, I pledged to make representation in Congress a priority. Despite joint resolutions from the Northern Marianas Legislature and the support of Governor Lorenzo I. DeLeon Guerrero, it was not until 1994 that a bill, HR 4927, was finally introduced. It was Robert Underwood, joined by co-sponsors Mr. Murphy, Mr. Flaeomavaega, Ms. Norton, Mr. Romero-Barceló, and Mr. de Lugo, who made that important first step on our behalf.

Their effort was followed in 1996 by the introduction of legislation by Mr. Gallegly, co-sponsored by Chairman Young, Mr. Faleomavaega, Mr. Underwood, Mr. Abercrombie, Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Romero-Barceló, Mr. Frazer, Mr. Kim, and Mr. Rahall. The Northern Marianas Delegate bill was reported favorably by the Resources Committee. Opponents, however, were able to discourage floor consideration of the measure in the waning days of the 104th Congress.

In opposition to the Gallegly/Young bills, both in committee and after the bill was reported favorably, it was argued that, although the people of the Northern Marianas are US citizens, they have no inherent "right" to participate in our Nation's governance. This argument is technically correct. The Constitution makes no provision for representation in Congress for US citizens not residents of the several States. However, since the very first days of our Republic, this Congress has acknowledged that US citizens, even outside the States, should in justice have a voice in Congress. And, over the last two hundred years, Congress has so provided, giving representation in the US House to Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Michigan—together some 30 territories ranging in population from 5,000 to 250,000.

At times, though, Congress has delayed in granting this representation—in the case of Alaska because of its remoteness and its population's racial and ethnic composition. But we live in modern times, when concerns about distance and homogeneity have been superseded by technology and a more enlightened sense of justice and civil rights.

It was further argued that representation in Congress is a "privilege" and that the people of the Northern Marianas are unworthy—because of the abuse of foreign laborers which has occurred in the islands—to have the same privileges as other people living in the United States. But the privilege—if privilege it be—has been denied the people of the Northern Marianas for twenty-three years, since long before the issue of foreign labor abuse arose.

In approving the Covenant of political union with the United States, the people of the Northern Marianas elected to live under federal law. We do not fear it. We seek its protection for ourselves and for all persons living in the Northern Marianas. What we want is to have a voice in making those federal laws which govern us.

The Supreme Court of the United States opined in 1964. "[n]o right is more precious in a free country than that of having a voice in the election of those who make the laws under which, as good citizens, we must live." It is with respect for that fundamental prin-

ciple that we ask for passage of the Northern Marianas Delegate Act.

HONORING GREG GOODMAN FOR
HIS PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Greg Goodman, a valued constituent of the Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee.

Greg Goodman has taken top origination honors for the State of Tennessee for the third year in a row. Greg is a vice president of Sun Trust Bank in Nashville and has been with the bank since graduating from David Lipscomb College in 1991.

Greg has closed over \$240 million in residential loans since 1991. Greg is not only number one in the State of Tennessee, but also has the honor of being one of the top originators in the southeastern United States. Greg has completed Course I at the School of Mortgage Banking at Charleston University and is one of the top marketers in the United States.

Greg's secret is based on the utilization and building of relationships. In his words: "My commitment starts with relationships. Relationship selling is focused on the customer. Exceeding expectations is the single most powerful way our team has of building credibility." Greg is a strong advocate of under-promising and over-delivering.

Greg is an active social person, married to the former Alethea Barker, a member of the Church of Christ, and he celebrates his 30th birthday on August 14, 1998. Greg is destined to continue breaking records in selling. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

HEFLEY AMENDMENT

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 6, 1998

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, last night I voted against the Hefley Amendment. As Ranking member of the Subcommittee on Civil Service, I strongly opposed the Hefley amendment because I believe that no employee, federal or otherwise, should be subjected to employment discrimination.

Executive Order 13087, signed by President Clinton on May 28th, creates no new rights, it merely codifies existing non-discrimination policies already in force in every Federal department and agency throughout the executive branch. The Executive Order simply says that supervisors in the Federal government may not consider race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, in hiring, firing or promotion decisions. It states a fair and reasonable policy with which no true believer in our nation's founding principle of equal justice under law could disagree.

The Hefley Amendment would prohibit the expenditure of funds to implement the Executive Order. By doing so, it sends the wrong